

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15963

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET JOURNAL ON CRUISE MISSILES

1. SUMMARY. THE LATEST ISSUE OF OGONYOK, THE KOMSOMOL JOURNAL, CONTAINS THE MOST DIRECT EDITORIAL STATEMENT WE HAVE SEEN ON THE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE IN SALT-II. THE COMMENTARY COMES VERY CLOSE TO A DIRECT ACCUSATION THAT THE U.S. IS RENEGING ON AN UNDERSTANDING ALLEGEDLY REACHED AT VLADIVOSTOK THAT THE CRUISE MISSILE WOULD BE USED BY THE U.S. ONLY IN TACTICAL CONFIGURATIONS WITH A RANGE OF UNDER 600 KILOMETERS. THE AUTHOR EMPHASIZES CONTINUED SOVIET INTEREST IN AN AGREEMENT, AND SAYS THAT "JUDGING FROM OFFICIAL STATEMENTS", IN PARTICULAR THOSE BY THE SECRETARY, WASHINGTON HAS MAINTAINED ITS INTEREST AS WELL. HE PLACES BLAME FOR THE "NEW OBSTACLE" IN THE WAY OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE PENTAGON AND ITS DEFENSE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXION.

2. THE MAGAZINE WAS SIGNED TO PRESS ON OCTOBER 28 AND THEREFORE PREDATES THE U.S. CABINET CHANGES. AT
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THE SAME TIME, ARTICLE EXPLICITLY MAKES THE POINT THAT

"OFFICIAL WASHINGTON" WANAI AN AGREEMENT, WHILE THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE PENTAGON DO NOT. PLACEMENT OF THE EDIORIAL IN THE LESS AUTHORITATIVE OGONYOK INDICATES THAT MOSCOW IS NOT YET READY TO MAKE SUCH NEAR-ACCUSATIONS OF RENEGING IN THE MORE AUTHORITATIVE CENTRAL PRESS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE EDITORIAL, BY SERGEY LOSYEV, CONTENDS THAT IN A SCHLESINGER PRESS CONFERENCE THE END OF OCTOBER "JOURNALISTS MADE THE POINT IN THEIR QUESTIONS THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE REPRESENTED (THE CRUISE MISSILE) AS A TACTICAL WEAPON WITH A RADIUS ON THE ORDER OF 600 KILOMEMTERS." LOSYEV DOES NOT RELATE HOW SCHLESINGER ANSWERED, BUT RATHER CONTINUES THAT "THE PENTAGON IS NOW TURNING THE CRUISE MISSILE INTO A STRATEGIC WEAPON WITH A RANGE OF 2,000 MILES, AND, AS AN EDITORIAL IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EMPHASIZES, IS 'DEFYING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS'." LOSYEV FURTHER QUOTES THE NYT THAT "THE U.S. IN REALITY HAS NO NEED FOR YET ANOTHER EXPENSIVE WEAPONS DELIVERY SYSTEM. CEASING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRUISE MILLILE COULD OPEN THE WAY TO SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN THE SALT-II NEGOTIATIONS".

4. LOSYEV CONCLUDES HIS COMMENTARY WITH OBSERVATION THAT "THE FIRST TOW AGREEMENTS ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS WERE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL SECURITY. THIS

PRINCIPLE SHOULD BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED IN THE FINAL ELABORATION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT AS WELL".

5. ELSEWHERE IN THE EDITORIAL LOSYEV EMPHASIZES CONTINUING EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE THE USSR ASCRIBES TO A NEW SALT AGREEMENT, MAKING POINT THAT NOW, WHEN DETENTE IS UNDER "MOST VICIOUS COUNTERATTACK ON THE OTHE SIDE OF THE OCEAN, IN PEKING, AND BY ALL SORTS OF REACTIONARY FORCES IN WESTERN EUROPE", A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHEN THE POLICY OF A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. LOSYEV, WHEN SPEAKING OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, CONTINUES TO USE THE FUTURE TENSE ("IT WILL BE A GREAT STEP FORWARD") AND SAYS THAT "JUDGING

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FROM STATEMENTS FROM OFFICIAL WASHINGTON", THE U.S. MAINTAINS ITS INTEREST IN A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE QUOTES THE SECRETARY THAT THE AGREEMENT IS 90 PERCENT COMPLETE, AND THAT AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE "TWO OR THREE" OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS ANOTHER 4 TO 6 WEEKS WILL BE NEEDED TO WRAP UP THE DETAILS.

6. LOSYEV NOTES THAT THIS ESTIMATE BY THE SECRETARTY HAS

BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE U.S. AS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, AND
THEN LAUNCHES OFF INTO A TORTURED EXPLANATION OF THE
INTEREST OF THE U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN BREAKING
OFF THE SALT TALKS IN ORDER TO FATTEN ITS COLLECTIVE
WALLET. IT IS IN DEFENSE OF THESE INTERESTS, LOSYEV
CONTENDS, THAT THE PENTAGON HAS COME FORTH WITH THE "NEW
OBSTACLE" IN THE TALKS--THE CRUISE MISSILE.
MATLOCK

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